Applicant:

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT 0033-0630P

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Technology Center 2600

Appl. No.:

09/451,097

Shuichi WATANABE

November 30, 1999

Group:

Conf.:

Examiner:

R. Lee

For:

Filed:

IMAGE RETRIEVING APPARATUS PERFORMING RETRIEVAL BASED ON CODING INFORMATION

UTILIZED FOR FEATURED FRAME EXTRACTION OR

FEATURE VALUES OF FRAMES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

February 26, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please replace claims 1, 2, 15 and 16 with the following amended claims: Please note that claims 1, 2, 15 and 16 are presented below in their amended form. They are further presented as an Attachment to the Amendment whereby the amendments to the claims are outlined using the conventional method of bracketing and underlining.

SUBBI)

1. (Amended) An image retrieval information storing apparatus, comprising: a frame feature value generating unit for generating a frame feature value which is a numerical representation of a frame feature based on image data; and

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